



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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JULY 8, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE
TWO KC FELONS SENTENCED
FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two felons were sentenced in federal court today, in separate and unrelated cases, for illegally possessing firearms. Today's sentencings, Graves said, mark additional progress under Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

* **Gary D. Kitchen**, 23, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Chief Judge Dean Whipple this afternoon to five years and three months in federal prison without parole.

On March 9, 2004, **Kitchen** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Kitchen** admitted that he was in possession of a Norinco Mac 90 assault rifle on Oct. 7, 2003. Under federal statutes, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition. **Kitchen** has three 1998 criminal felony convictions for sale of a controlled substance and trafficking and a 2001 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance.

Kitchen was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Oct. 21, 2003, in Kansas City.

This case was prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael J. Hunt. The case was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Aaron T. Fant**, 33, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Chief Judge Dean Whipple this afternoon to six years and five months in federal prison without parole.

On Feb. 24, 2004, **Fant** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By

pleading guilty, **Fant** admitted that he was in possession of a Smith and Wesson 9 mm semi-automatic pistol on Dec. 2, 2003. Under federal statutes, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition. **Fant** has a 2001 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance.

Fant was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Dec. 17, 2003, in Kansas City.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce E. Clark. The case was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms. Project Ceasefire has resulted in federal charges against 627 defendants, and convictions against 540 of those defendants, including 511 who pleaded guilty and 29 who were convicted at trial. A total of 483 of the 540 convicted defendants have been sentenced, and 57 currently await sentencing hearings.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow